

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 34 through 41 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 20 through 24, 29 through 32, and 42 through 45 and add Claims 46 through 52 as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A driver embodied in a computing-device-readable medium system~~ for use in a computing device having a TCP/IP stack, ~~said driver being configured to send an IP packet from the TCP/IP stack through an IP tunnel across a network, wherein the IP packet from the TCP/IP stack, which IP packet comprises an IP header, is placed within an ethernet packet before being received by said driver, wherein the ethernet packet comprises an ethernet header and an ethernet checksum, and~~ said system comprising:

a driver that receives a packet from the TCP/IP stack; and

a hardware interface between said driver and a network,

wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP stack comprises (a) an ethernet header and (b) an IP packet,

wherein the IP packet comprises an IP header including a source IP address and a destination IP address,

wherein the source IP address and the destination IP address are the only IP addresses contained in the packet received from the TCP/IP stack, and

wherein said driver (a) removes the ethernet header from the front of the packet and received from the TCP/IP stack, ethernet checksum from the ethernet packet, and (b) thereafter adds another IP header so as to result in a packet that comprises both (a) the IP header and (b) the another IP header, which packet is sent via said hardware interface to the network.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~driver~~ system according to Claim 20, wherein the network is the Internet.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~driver~~ system according to Claim 20, wherein an apparatus on the network receives the IP packet ~~through the IP tunnel that was sent via said hardware interface to the network and obtains, from the packet, the IP packet.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~driver~~ system according to Claim 22, wherein the apparatus on the network sends the ~~received~~ IP packet towards its destination via a network.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~driver~~ system according to Claim 23,
wherein the destination IP address of the IP header of the IP packet is the IP address
of a server on the Internet, and

wherein ~~an internet~~ a web browser running on the computing device
accesses ~~a~~ the server on the Internet by sending a web browser request to the server
on the Internet by way of ~~through~~ the TCP/IP stack of the computing device, ~~which~~
~~sends a request to the server by way of said driver, said hardware interface, and the~~
apparatus on the network.

25-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
~~an internet browser~~ an application that generates an HTTP request;
and
a TCP/IP stack for use with said ~~internet browser~~ application; and
~~a driver that (i) receives an ethernet packet containing an IP packet~~
~~from said TCP/IP stack, the IP packet comprising an IP header, wherein the ethernet~~
~~packet comprises an ethernet header and an ethernet checksum, (ii) removes the~~
~~ethernet header and ethernet checksum from the ethernet packet, and (iii) adds~~
~~another IP header so as to result in a packet that comprises both (a) the IP header and~~
~~(b) the another IP header;~~

a driver that receives a packet from the TCP/IP stack; and
a hardware interface between said driver and a network,
wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP stack comprises (a) an
ethernet header and (b) an IP packet,

wherein the IP packet comprises an IP header including a source IP
address and a destination IP address,

wherein the source IP address and the destination IP address are the
only IP addresses contained in the packet received from the TCP/IP stack, and

wherein said driver (a) removes the ethernet header from the front of
the packet received from the TCP/IP stack, and (b) thereafter adds another IP header
so as to result in a packet that comprises both (a) the IP header and (b) the another IP
header, which packet is sent via said hardware interface to the network,

wherein said ~~internet browser~~ application sends ~~a packet~~ an HTTP
request across the ~~Internet~~ network to a second apparatus through (a) said TCP/IP
stack, (b) said driver, (c) ~~an Internet~~ a network connection between said apparatus and
a gateway apparatus, and (d) means for transmitting ~~packets~~ data from the gateway
apparatus to the second apparatus.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 29,
~~wherein the tunnel comprises an IP tunnel, and wherein the means for transmitting~~
~~packets~~ data from the gateway apparatus to the second apparatus ~~is an~~ effects the

transmission via a IP network connection between the gateway apparatus and the second apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein the network connection between the gateway apparatus and the second apparatus is a an IP network connection.

32. (Currently Amended) A personal computing device comprising:
a TCP/IP stack; and
a driver system according to Claim 20.

33-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
driving means for use in a personal computer, the personal computer including TCP/IP software and a hardware interface between said driving means and a network,

wherein said driving means is configured to receive from the TCP/IP software ~~an ethernet~~ a packet that comprises an ethernet header[[,]] and an IP packet,
~~an ethernet checksum, and an IP packet from the TCP/IP software, the IP packet comprising a first IP header, and~~

wherein the IP packet comprises an IP header including a source IP address and a destination IP address.

wherein the source IP address and the destination IP address are the only IP addresses contained in the packet received from the TCP/IP software, and

wherein said driving means is configured to remove the ethernet header and ethernet checksum from the ethernet packet received from the TCP/IP software and thereafter add a second IP header so as to result in a packet that comprises both (a) the first IP header and (b) the second IP header.

43. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 42, wherein the personal computer includes ~~internet~~ web browser software, and the ~~internet~~ web browser software sends a packet to a first apparatus having an IP address through (a) the TCP/IP software, (b) said ~~driver~~, (c) driving means, (c) the hardware interface, (d) a network connection between the personal computer and a second apparatus having an IP address, and ~~(d)~~ (e) a network connection between the second apparatus and the first apparatus.

44. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving from TCP/IP software a packet comprising an ethernet header~~[[,]]~~ and an IP packet, ~~ethernet checksum, and an IP packet from TCP/IP software~~, the IP packet comprising a first IP header including a source IP address and a

destination IP address, wherein the source IP address and the destination IP address are the only IP addresses contained in the packet received from the TCP/IP software;

removing the ethernet header ~~and ethernet checksum~~ from the packet received in said receiving step; and

adding a second IP header to the packet after said removing step removes the ethernet header, resulting in a packet that comprises both (a) the first IP header and (b) the second IP header,

wherein said method is performed by a personal computer that comprises the TCP/IP software.

45. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 44, wherein the IP packet further comprises a packet from ~~an internet~~ a web browser used on the personal computer, and the packet that comprises both (a) the first IP header and (b) the second IP header is sent from the personal computer to a first apparatus having an IP address via a network connection, and

wherein the first apparatus having an IP address removes the first IP header from the packet and sends the resulting packet to a second apparatus having an IP address via a network connection.

46. (New) A system according to Claim 20, wherein the computing device is a personal computing device.

47. (New) A system according to Claim 20, wherein the computing device is a personal computer.

48. (New) A device according to Claim 32, wherein said device is a personal computer.

49. (New) A system according to Claim 20, wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP stack further comprises an ethernet checksum, and said driver also removes the ethernet checksum from the packet received from the TCP/IP stack.

50. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP stack further comprises an ethernet checksum, and said driver also removes the ethernet checksum from the packet received from the TCP/IP stack.

51. (New) A system according to Claim 42, wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP software further comprises an ethernet checksum, and said driving means also removes the ethernet checksum from the packet received from the TCP/IP software.

52. (New) A method according to Claim 44, wherein the packet received from the TCP/IP software further comprises an ethernet checksum, and said method further comprises a step, before said adding step, of removing the ethernet checksum from the packet received from the TCP/IP software.